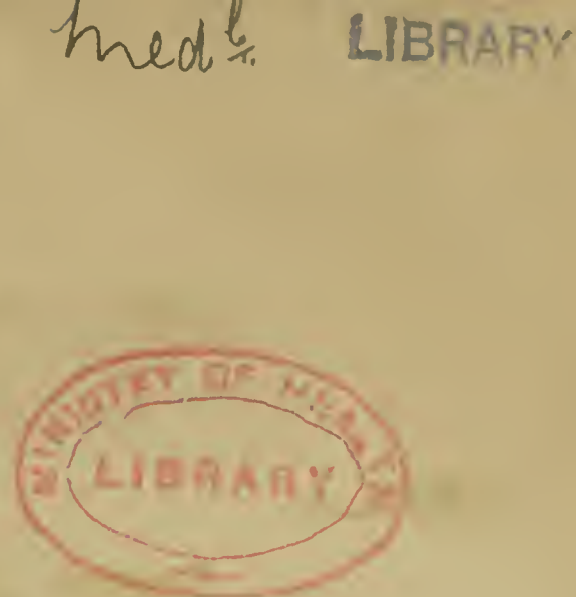


HEALTH
A 3MAY1944
C.R. 37



R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the

MUNICIPAL BOROUGH

of

W I L T O N.

for the year ended December

1942.

Sanitary and Health Officials:

Medical Officer of Health: G. Napier. B.Sc (Hons)
M.B. Ch.B. D.P.H.(RCP & S)
C.T.M. & H.
Phone: Wilton 211.
Salisbury 3371.

Sanitary Inspector. Trevor David. A.R.S.I.
Phone M.S.I.A.
Wilton 108.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S ANNUAL REPORT (1942)

SECTION A.

General Description of the Borough:

Population	2,417
Acreage	2,681
Number of Inhabited Houses	767
Number of working class houses	528
Number of Council Houses	116

Industry and Trades:- The Wilton Royal Carpet Factory
Felt Manufacture at The Felt Mills

Rateable Value	£13,776
Product of 1d Rate	£52

Public Services:

Gas Supply. The Salisbury Gas Company.
Electricity. The Wilton Electricity Supply Company Ltd.
Highways. Administered by the Wilts County Council.

Refuse Removal - Collection by private contractor.
Sewage Disposal - Piped to works situated outside the Borough.

VITAL STATISTICS:

Births.	Total.	Males.	Females.	
Live Births: Legitimate	29	13	16) Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ... 12.9
Illegitimate	2	1	1	
Stillbirths	1	1	0) Rate per 1,000 of live and stillbirths... 62
Deaths.				
Deaths	29	18	11	Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population.... 12.
Deaths from puerperal causes (headings 29 & 30 of the Registrar General's Special List.)				Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths.
No 29. Puerperal Sepsis...	0.			0.
No 30. Other puerperal causes	0.			0.
Total.	0.			0.

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	64
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	69.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births... .	0.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	0.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years)	2.

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality
Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for certain infectious
Diseases in the year 1942. Provisional figures based on
Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England & Wales.	126 C.Bs. & Great Towns.	148 smaller Towns.	London. Admin. County.	Wilton. Borough.
Rates per 1,000 of Civilian Population.					
Live Births.	15.8	17.3	18.4.	14.0	12.9
Stillbirths.	0.54	0.66	0.62	0.48	0.41
Deaths;					
All causes.	11.6	13.3	12.1	13.9	12.0
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.00
Diphtheria	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.02	0.00
Influenza.	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.07	0.00
Smallpox.	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Measles.	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Rates per 1,000 live births.					
Deaths under 1 yr of age	49	59	46	60	64
Deaths from Diarrhoea & enteritis under 2 years of age	5.2	7.5	4.8	8.6	64
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
Notifications:-					
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-Spinal F.	0.14	0.17	0.12	0.15	0.00
Scarlet Fever	2.19	2.49	2.34	1.86	0.00
Whooping Cough	1.72	1.97	1.58	2.72	0.40
Diphtheria	1.05	1.35	0.91	0.76	0.00
Erysipelas	0.30	0.36	0.26	0.43	0.00
Smallpox.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles.	7.46	9.27	7.39	8.62	0.00
Pneumonia	1.07	1.30	0.94	0.94	0.00
Rates per 1,000 Total Births. (Live and Still)					
Maternal Mortality. (Excluding abortion)					
Puerperal Infection.	0.42.				0.00
Others.	1.59				0.00
Total	2.01				0.00
Notifications:-					
Puerperal Fever)	12.61	15.94	10.80	3.10.	0.00
.. Pyrexia)				17.69	

BRIEF NOTES ON PUBLIC HEALTH DURING THE YEAR:-

Wilton has again enjoyed a good year as regards freedom from epidemics, the figure for incidence of notifiable infectious disease being a very low one. As usual there were no deaths from notifiable infectious disease, nor in children from Measles & Whooping Cough; childbed fever also did not claim any victims here.

As regards general health of the population, there was no excessive mortality from any special cause and the death rate is at its usual low level. So far the excessive population concentrated in the small Borough has had no ascertainable effects at all on Public Health. This is satisfactory considering the mixed population from so many different countries and towns, now added to our own.

- - - - -

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA :

The Medical Officer spends his whole time in Public Health work, being Medical Officer for the neighbouring Rural Districts of Salisbury and Wilton and Mere and Tisbury. His qualifications are, Bachelor of Science (Honours Degree) St. Andrews; Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery; Diploma of Public Health of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, England; and the Certificate of Tropical Hygiene, London.

There is a fully qualified Sanitary Inspector in the Borough. He holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute (Sanitary Inspector) and also the Meat and Foods Certificate.

Contribution is made to these officers' salaries under the Public Health Acts.

The Medical Officer in charge of the Infant Welfare and Ante-natal clinics is Dr. Straton, of West Lodge, Wilton, who is also Public Vaccinator for the Area.

Other Officers..... Midwives:

There are two midwives who devote part of their time to this Area and part to the rural area. They also act as School Nurses. They are responsible to an Association working in conjunction with the Wilts. County Nursing Association and the County Medical Officer

Nursing in the Home.

This is undertaken by the two Nurses as above, both certified midwives, under the general direction of the Nursing Association.

- - - - -

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA .

Water Supply:

The source of the Borough water supply is a shallow well. Samples for analysis are taken systematically and the reports reveal a high standard of purity. Nevertheless, the supply is treated with "chloramine" before it enters the service reservoir. A copy of one of the analyst's reports is appended.

" Salisbury General Infirmary "

Pathological Department.

Report on Bacteriological Examination of Water:

Water sample received on 16th December 1942, from the rising main, at the Waterworks, Wilton, before treatment.

1. Bacteriological Count:

Total colonies growing on agar at 37°C in 48 hrs..... Nil .

2. B. Coli Counts at 37°C in 48 hrs and 44°C in 48 hrs.

Quantity of water tested.	Acid and gas from lactose.	
	at 37°C	at 44°C.
5 tubes of 10ml of water.	- - - - -	- - - - -
5 tubes of 1 ml. of water	- - - - -	- - - - -

As result of calculation made from above:

- (1) Number of Coli Aerogenes per 100 m.l. growing at 37°C..... Nil.
- (2) Number of faecal type of B. Coli per 100 ml. at 44°C..... Nil.

OPINION: Bacteriological examination shows no evidences whatsoever of harmful pollution.

Dated 18. 12. 42.

(Signed) LHDT.
Pathologist. "

- - - - -

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION: The water closet system is in operation in almost all closets in the Borough, except for some few cases where connection to the sewer is impossible

Public Cleansing: Street cleansing is satisfactory. Refuse is removed to a controlled tip at Salisbury and the service satisfactory. There are no cesspools in the Borough.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams:

During the year the Catchment Board carried on with the dredging of local rivers, the work had been slowed up owing to prior claims of Defence Departments.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA .

Inspection of Meat and Foods:

Since the introduction by the Ministry of Food of the policy of centralised slaughtering, there has been no slaughtering of food animals in the Borough. Meat and food in retailers' shops is still occasionally inspected. The following foods were condemned as unfit:-

- 89 lbs of canned meats of various kinds.
- 56 lbs of butter.
- 56 lbs of rice.

Cowsheds and Dairies: The farms and dairies situated in the Borough were subjected to quarterly inspections and milk sampling carried out for the County Council under the Special Designations Scheme.

Factories and Workshops.

Periodical visits are made to local workshops and the usual linewashing requested.

Inspection is also made of "the means of escape in case of fire" at the two local factories.

New Housing:

During the year one building was converted into a dwelling house.

Drainage:

Drainage at 21 premises was either provided, improved, re-laid, or repaired and tested.

Vermin Infestation.

No complaints were received during the year of infestation by vermin.

Emergency Work.

A great deal of the officer's time during the year was taken up with works of an emergency character, such as, the survey for the removal of iron railings, the distribution of Morrison Shelters and the provision of emergency water supplies for fire fighting.

- - - - -

HOUSING ACTS 1909 - 1936.

(Statement of work carried out under the above Acts during the year 1942).

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts... | 74 |
| (b) Number of inspections for the purpose | 228 |

2. Remedy of defects during the year without serving of formal notices:

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority and their Officers	67
--	----

Overcrowding:

- | | |
|--|----|
| Cases of overcrowding occurring during the year ... | 1. |
| Cases of overcrowding abated during the year | 1. |

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Notifiable Diseases other than Tuberculosis during the year 1942.

Disease.	Number of Cases.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths
Small-pox.	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Acute Pneumonia	1	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0
Infantile Paralysis	0	0	0
Typhoid Fever.	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	1	0	0
CerebroSpinal Fever	0	0	0

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA :

The year 1942 saw the start of what has since turned out to be a very successful campaign against that most treacherous of all childhood's diseases - diphtheria. The marked success of the campaign will benefit not only the children liable to diphtheria and their parents by removing the threat of an epidemic among the children, but will provide security against the financial cost to the Borough and possible raising of the rates, which such an epidemic might have entailed.

Though Wilton Borough has had only odd cases of diphtheria in the past and prompt notification of and attention to these and to contacts, has successfully resisted the spread of the disease; other Authorities have not been quite so fortunate, and with the general migration of population and influx of troops, this measure is a very useful insurance for the future.

Of the four schools in Wilton, namely the Senior, Junior, Miss Wright's and the Evacuee School, all children attending the Wilton Junior School have now been immunised except a single family; Miss Wright's private school had also some 95% immunised, as had the Evacuee School. In the Wilton Senior School some 85% were immunised but this figure will gradually rise as children go up from the Junior School.

Further, as nearly every infant now born in Wilton, is immunised at or soon after attaining one year of age, the school population should very shortly be 100% immune, if not to the risk of infection certainly to the risk of death and crippling complications of the disease.

Thanks for the success of the effort should be paid to the school teachers who have been extremely helpful throughout and to Dr. Straton. Members of the Council are asked to help us wherever they can, such help in persuading mothers and fathers will always be appreciated.

SMALL-POX VACCINATION:

While this organisation is under the jurisdiction of the County Council, yet since it affects the possible future health of the Borough I include it in the report; especially as in wartime, the outbreak of small-pox anywhere is a possibility always to be borne in mind.

Unfortunately in recent years the tendency to deride the necessity for vaccination has increased, partly due to the immunity enjoyed as a result of vaccination itself, and partly to the constant watch at ports and aerodromes and the careful checking up on contacts, etc. It is, however, that in my opinion, as things are, should the number of vaccinated people drop below a certain safe percentage, epidemics are not only probable but practically certain to occur.

It is therefore all the more distressing to learn that certain people who shall be nameless are said to be making a habit of advising against vaccination. The majority of these people can never have seen a severe case of small-pox, and probably have only heard of the mild type of case which have occurred in England from time to time.

Severe small-pox is (1) extremely infectious, (2) can and does kill and (3) may disfigure terribly. Members of the Council are asked to help in contradicting stupid statements about vaccination.

- - - - -
TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and mortality during 1942:

All ages.	New cases.	
	Respiratory.	Non-respiratory.
0.	0	0
	Deaths.	
	Respiratory.	Non-respiratory.
0.	0	0

- - - - -
G. Napier.